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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 003970

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, AUGUST 25-27: ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE; FREEZE OF HAMAS ASSETS; TERRORISM; IRAQ

11. SUMMARY: Conservative commentators accuse the US of "unification with the Zionists" for a "lack of condemnation" of Israeli attacks on Hamas members and the freeze of Hamas assets earlier in the week.

One commentator defends the US Ambassador to Kuwait, Richard [JH](#). Jones, from allegations of "interference in Kuwait's affairs." With the anniversary of the September 11 attacks approaching, another bemoans how extremists "have destroyed the image of Islam" and asks, "what will we say to the residents of New York?"

All newspapers report popular anger and calls for government accountability over poster advertisements that appeared around Kuwait City this week for a new album by an Iraqi singer Kazem Al-Safer, accused locally of ties to Saddam's regime. END SUMMARY.

12. News Stories: All newspapers report popular unhappiness with the appearance of posters advertising a new album released by Iraqi singer Kazem Al-Safer, referred to in the local media as the "spoiled child of the Saddam regime," with many Kuwaitis calling the promotion campaign "an offense to the Kuwaiti POWs who were martyred in Iraq." Al-Rai Al-Aam reports that the Public Prosecutor has refused a request by several Kuwaiti lawyers to file charges against the Minister of Information for allowing the posters to be hung.

All newspapers report this week that DNA tests have positively identified the remains of four more Kuwaiti POWs found in a mass grave in Iraq.

Al-Anba reports that four Kuwaiti lawyers will file a petition carrying the signature of 1000 Kuwaitis with Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad asking the government to deliberate resuming relations with Iraq.

Al-Seyassa reports on August 26 that the committee formed by the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) to study the situation of the "bidoons" (stateless residents of Kuwait) will refer its final recommendations on resolving this issue to the government in the next 10 days. Two MPs have threatened to bring the Prime Minister and Minister of Education before a National Assembly no-confidence vote if a solution to the issue is not found.

All newspapers report that Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad will begin a three-day visit to Washington at the invitation of President Bush beginning September 9.

Al-Watan reports on August 26 that Kuwaiti border patrols foiled an attempt to smuggle liquor and weapons from Iraq.

Editorials:

13. "Terrorism or Resistance"

Dr. Shamlan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (8/25): "Leaders of the free world, the Arab League, the UN Secretary General and the Iraqi Transitional Governing

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Council have condemned the bombing of the UN headquarters in Iraq. Only the Arab satellite channels, which support the defunct Iraqi regime and are anti-American, proclaim it as the work of nationalists fighting to liberate Iraq from the so-called foreigners."

14. "The Wonders of Arabs in the Devil's Countries"

Saleh Al-Shayiji wrote in independent Al-Anba (8/25): "After the September 11 attacks, Arabs who reside in the Devil's countries [America and the West], appeared on the satellite channels to condemn Bin Laden and apologize for his actions. These Arabs never tried to return to

Afghanistan, Iraq or Palestine to defend the Arab people. Such Arabs. have no dignity or honor."

15. "The Apache Map"

Lawyer Jamal Al-Kandari wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/25): "After the Zionists murdered Abu Shanab by using Apache helicopters, we expected the US to condemn the attack and call to end Israel's aggression against unarmed civilians. Instead, the US ordered the freeze of assets of Palestinian Islamic organizations. The US had an opportunity to gain the sympathy of the Arab and Islamic worlds, but it is not possible to gain that sympathy without taking action against Zionist crimes."

16. "Unification Between America and Zionism"

Dr. Yasser Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (8/26): "In his weekly radio address, President Bush described the Palestinians resisting the Zionists and the Iraqi resistance against the American occupiers in Iraq as people who are attempting to impose their evil will on the civilized world. In his statement, he has unified America and Zionism."

17. "Kuwaitis and the American Embassy"

Talal Al-Arab wrote in independent Al-Qabas (8/25): "The American Embassy, and any other embassy, exists to serve its country, not ours. The American Ambassador is one of the most frequent visitors of all Ambassadors to diwaniyas [Kuwaiti men's gatherings], recognizing their social and political influence in the country. He is the most liked foreign Ambassador for understanding the role of diwaniyas, and for accepting Kuwaiti's criticism. The only suspicious movements around are the movements of the radical groups who were detained lately by the Kuwaiti security forces."

18. "What Are We Going to Say to the Residents of New York?"

Khalil Haidar wrote in independent Al-Watan (8/27): "Religious extremism and terrorism have destroyed the image of Arabs and Muslims in the world. Our religion has become the religion of violating laws, of weapons, of bombings and the hijacking of planes. In two weeks, we will see the anniversary of the September 11 crime, the attack which we denied and accused others of committing. So what will we say on September 11, 2003?"

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